

Section I

Maps – MONTANA

INTRODUCTION

This section contains a series of geographically referenced maps depicting a variety of themes. Maps are cataloged under four general categories:

- 1) (A) Maps – **A**administrative area maps. These maps reference geographic boundaries for various cooperating agencies and/or agency administered programs.
- 2) (M) Maps – **M**anagement reference maps. These maps reference the location of sites, areas, or specific elements (values) having geographic significance and/or the status of various resources mapping and related activities.
- 3) (R) Maps – **R**esource thematic maps. These maps reference specific natural resource themes depicted by areas, lines, or points that provide resources information for interpretation purposes.
- 4) (C) Maps – **C**ustomized county-based or watershed-based project maps. These maps are customized for a particular county or watershed(s), and are not uniformly required or provided in this section state-wide. They may be produced as a result of GIS analysis.

To assist the user, digitized "**C**" maps are prefaced by a brief narrative explaining the map status, its physical size, physical location, nominal scale, accuracy based on scale, digital status, availability and format of digital data, advisories on how to use the map (disclaimers) and where to get more information.

As much as practicable, automated map construction methods and a Geographic Information System (GIS) have been used to produce most map products. These techniques serve to standardize the output and provide uniform, visually useful map products. Physical map size is a function of desired scale and accuracy of the source materials. Large size or large scale maps may be found in separate binders or map cabinets as indicated.

The thematic maps in this section are intended for general reference and planning purposes and serve as a guide to locating anticipated reference or resource conditions. Based on the nominal map scale, there may be hidden or masked conditions not depicted on the map. Special care is required to reference more detailed maps (if available) and/or perform on-site analysis for specific planning purposes. Second and third generation maps produced as a result of automated mapping and GIS analysis are only as good as the source materials used. Special care should be exercised in the distribution of maps as a result of automated mapping and GIS analysis.